

indicated that claims 1-15, 25-28, 34 and 54-57 fell under one group classified in class 345, subclass 418 and claims 16-24, 29-33, and 35-53 fell under a different group classified in class 345, subclass 232. Applicants thereafter elected to continue prosecution on the merits as to claims 1-15, 25-28, 34 and 54-57 and cancelled claims 16-24, 29-33, and 35-53 without traverse.

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.53(b), Applicants herein file a divisional application and in this Preliminary Amendment filed therewith, the Applicants now elect to have claims 16-24, 29-33 and 35-53 prosecuted on the merits.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andreas Schilling & Guenter Knittel

Dated: _____

4/7/2000

By: _____

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